and seal the machines, equipments and records of the violators. The sale of certain diagnostic equipment is restricted only to the bodies registered under the Act.

The Government has also taken various steps to support implementation of the legislation, including through constitution of Central and State Supervisory Boards, National Inspection and Monitoring Committees (NIMC), capacity building of implementing agencies, including the judiciary and public prosecutors and community awareness generation through PRIs and community health workers such as Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a pilot scheme, "Dhanlakshmi — Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child Insurance Cover (CCT)" in March, 2009 in eleven blocks across seven states of the country, wherein cash transfers will be made to the family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionality (birth and registration, immunization, school enrolment and retention and delay in the marriage of the girl child till age of 18 years.

Deprivation of facilities to CGHS beneficiaries

2852. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries holding permanent (Life Long) Cards and having deposited the prescribed charges in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi and after retirement settled down in Faridabad and Noida, are being deprived of CGHS facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what arrangements are being made to enable them to avail CGHS facilities near their residences on the basis of the new CGHS cards which are being issued to avoid them harassment in getting health care for which they are entitled?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Central Government pensioners holding CGHS cards with life time validity are entitled to get treatment in CGHS dispensaries. Pensioner beneficiaries can avail CGHS treatment in any CGHS dispensary in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon which is nearer to their residences.

Law for protecting HIV/AIDS patients

2853. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS face a lot of discrimination in our country, as there is no effective law to protect their rights and interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring a comprehensive legislation to deal with the discrimination against people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS and to protect their rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time-frame by which Government proposes to introduce a Bill to this effect in the Parliament; and

(f) the other steps Government proposes to take to protect the rights and interest of the people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (f) A survey conducted by National Council of Applied Economics Research (NCAER) is 2005-06 showed that the worst victims of HIV infection are the poor and women who may be subjected to exploitation and denial of care by unscrupulous providers of care and quacks, outright denial of and access to healthcare and treatment, denial of and/or removal from employment; denial of various services including insurance, medical benefits etc.; discrimination against admission or continuance of their children in schools; ostracisation of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) from community and family; prevention of children from playing, interacting or eating with PLHAs etc. All these issues related to discrimination and ethical processes need to be addressed in a comprehensive and humane manner necessitating a legal frame work.

In order to bring a legislation to deal with the discrimination against people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS and to protect their rights, a draft Bill on HIV/AIDS is under consider of the Government. Since, the Bill is yet to be finalized; no firm date can be indicated at this stage to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

In addition to this, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) have issued the following instructions to protect the rights and interest of the people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS on the direction of Supreme Court of India:

(i) All Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres should have a complaint box so that the PLHAs can put their complaint if any into the box. The Nodal Officers should review the complaints weekly and take the necessary action in a timely manner.

(ii) At the State level a committee should be constituted for the redressal of the grievances at ART Centres and to routinely review functioning of the ART Centres. The Committee shall be headed by the Health Secretary of the State and shall consist of Project Directors of the State AIDS Control Society (SACS), Director of Medical Education, Director Health Services and the Nodal Officers of the ART centres. The committee may also include a representative of NACO, either the regional coordinator or anyone from NACO directly and a representative from the local NGO/Network of +ve People.

(iii) It must be ensured that there is no discrimination or stigma to PLHA's at health care facilities or otherwise. The case of denial of services to positive patients should be viewed seriously and action initiated in all such cases.

(iv) The SACS should ensure that doctors in private or public sector are sensitized/trained on NACO protocols on care and treatment.